



MSAPC ADVISORY CIRCULAR

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

OFFICE OF AIR AND WATER PROGRAMS • OFFICE OF MOBILE SOURCE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

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SUBJECT: Alternate Emission Testing Vehicle Preconditioning Procedure

A. Purpose

The purpose of this Advisory Circular is to provide an alternate procedure for vehicle preconditioning to that specified in 40 CFR 85.075-12(a) and 85.275-12(a)*. The alternate procedure permits the vehicle preconditioning to be performed on a chassis dynamometer as opposed to the current approach which requires both on-the-road as well as chassis dynamometer operation.

B. Background

1. Due to the lack of a private or limited-access test track on which on-the-road preconditioning could be performed, EPA and some manufacturers are forced to operate valuable and often irreplaceable prototype test vehicles on public roads. EPA is concerned about the possibility, especially during inclement weather, that a test vehicle could be damaged while being preconditioned on the road. Therefore, an optional preconditioning procedure which employs a chassis dynamometer permitting vehicles to be tested without being driven on the road is desirable.

2. EPA has conducted a study to determine whether a dynamometer preconditioning procedure would significantly change vehicle evaporative or exhaust emissions with respect to the current dynamometer and on-the-road preconditioning procedure specified in 40 CFR 85.075-12(a) and 85.275-12(a). The data from this study indicated that no significant difference in evaporative or exhaust emissions is attributable to the two preconditioning methods.

3. Mileage accumulation required under 40 CFR 85.075-12(a) is governed by the provisions of 40 CFR 85.075-7 which authorizes EPA to approve a modified procedure to that found in Appendix IV. EPA has decided to approve three consecutive runs of the dynamometer driving cycle described in 40 CFR 85.075-14 as a modified procedure that is equivalent to the one-hour on-the-road procedure described in Appendix IV.

*References to sections contained in Subpart A (e.g., 85.075-12) also apply to the corresponding sections of Subpart C (i.e., 85.275-12).

C. Applicability

This circular is effective immediately and is applicable to gasoline-fueled light-duty vehicles and light-duty trucks.

D. Procedure

1. For testing at their facility, manufacturers may use interchangeably either three consecutive runs of the dynamometer driving schedule described in 40 CFR 85.075-14, or the procedure referenced in 40 CFR 85.075-7, at their option, to fulfill the requirements of 40 CFR 85.075-12(a).

2. For testing at the EPA laboratory, the two procedures will be used interchangeably, particularly to avoid having to operate test vehicles on public roads during inclement weather or under hazardous conditions.

3. Notations shall be made on the log sheets as to which preconditioning procedure is utilized for each emission test.



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